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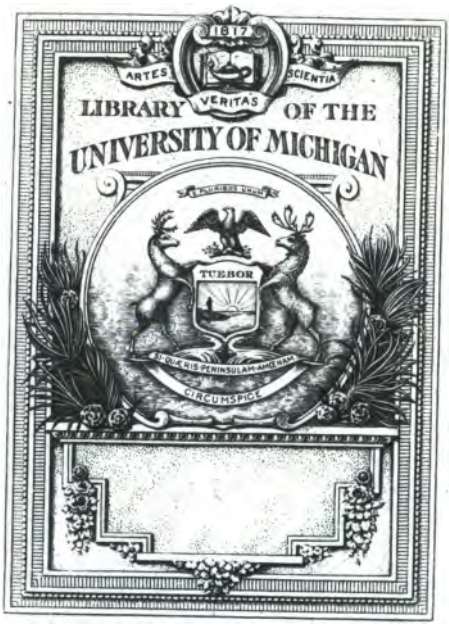
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the Old Patriarch we in Scripture find } So Big Vanella with a Serious Air
teeming Sheep by Art the Breed confin'd } Views every Feature with Attentive Care
d made his Lambkins o'the mottled kind. } To give her teeming Boy his Fathers Priority

THE

AIR CONCUBINE:

OR, THE

Secret HISTORY

Of the BEAUTIFUL

VANELLA.

CONTAINING,

Her Amours with *Albimarides*, P. *Alexis*, &c. Her Departure from the Court. The Particulars of her Settlement. An Account of several curious Incidents that happened in the Course of her Rivalship with Miss *Mordantia*. Faithful Copies of several of her Letters, particularly one to P. *Alexis* on her first finding herself Pregnant; and another to the Q—— concerning her Condition; together with all other remarkable Occurences thro' the whole Course of her Intrigues.

To which is annexed,

The Lady's Last Shift; or, a Cure for Shame. A TALE.

Dedicated to Five Honourable Maids.

The Fourth Edition.

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TO

Five Hon. MAIDS.

LADIES,

A T your Feet I lay the following Treatiſe, and humbly implore you to take it under your Care and Protection, for Reaſons which you may very well gueſs, and there is no Neceſſity for mentioning them. The Story, tho' brought from another Country, is literally true, and is pretty near upon a Parallel with a certain young Lady,

whom Love and Beauty has rendered odious to Virtue; and therefore, as Tenderneſs and Compaſſion glow in your Breaſts, ſo I hope you will pity the poor *Vanella*, that fallen Angel, who ſacrificed her Fame and Reputation to *Cupid*, and ſhipwrecked her Virtue in his Cauſe.

WHAT an imprudent Part has ſhe played? Could ſhe not *dance without paying the Piper?* But in good truth, ſhe *jigg'd* it about to ſome Tune. You very well know, Ladies, that if every Body's Faults were printed in their Foreheads, Vizors would be more in Faſhion than Hoop Petticoats; and tho' you might wink at *Vanella*'s Frailty, yet I am perſuaded you will cenſure her Conduct in not guarding herſelf againſt a Diſcovery. Lud! Lud! I warrant you that the poor Girl was hugely afraid of *leading Apes in Hell*; but as well to avoid that curſed Fate, as likewiſe dreading the Thoughts of loſing her *Teeming Time*, ſhe reſolved not to live an *Od Maid* in this World, and therefore ventured, like a *Virago*, to be made a *Woman*; and ſo prevent the Odium and Diſgrace which her own Sex would

would caſt upon her, and the malicious Treatment of our's.

I AM ready to acknowledge, that *Vanella*'s Indiſcretion was great: But then conſider, fair Ladies, that your Sex is naturally weak. The *Falling Sickneſs*, you know, is an hereditary Diſtemper in moſt Families; it was the firſt Diſeaſe that crept into the World, and Mother *Eve* was the firſt Perſon whom it ſeized. If therefore our Lawyers will allow Cuſtom and Preſcription to be good Pleas, *Vanella* ſurely might plead beſt in her Juſtification. Ye Honourable Maids are alſo ſenſible when Temptation is ſtrong, Deſire inflamed, Youth preſſing, and Opportunity inviting, 'tis no eaſy Matter to reſiſt the CRITICAL MINUTE, eſpecially when Virtue, which ſhould have guarded, has deſerted Love's *Portal*, and left it open for the Beſieger to *Enter* whenever he is inclined to do it. Some have capitulated upon honourable Terms; others, knowing the Generoſity of the Enemy, have ſurrendered at Diſcretion; and a generous Foe has often proved kinder to the former than to the latter.

YOU will ſay, perhaps, that the *Fair Concubine* ought to have been more prudent than to let the Burlineſs about her Hips, and the Shortneſs of her Petticoats diſcloſed what ſhe had been *doing*. But I appeal to all the *knowing* Part of your Sex; I appeal even to yourſelves, whether you believe it poſſible to abſtain from returning *Love for Love* in the CRITICAL MINUTE? For then the Senſes are in a Rapture, and the Thoughts of what may be the Conſequence of the amorous Encounter are ſwallowed up and loſt in the Extaſy of Love Enjoyments. There is no Room for *Forecaſt* at ſuch a Juncture, and the Mind is ſo cloſely employed about the *Time preſent*, that the future cannot be conſulted; but ſuppoſing that Lovers ſhould be ſo prudent as to gratify one another by Turns, ye will allow, ſurely, that a Moiety of the *Fruition* is wanting, and that it is but an *Half Pleaſure* at beſt. Can ye not tell by Experience that there is Harmony in a *Concert*, and that it raviſhes the Senſes, which a ſingle Perſon, tho' his Inſtrument be never ſo good, cannot effect?

IF

IF any of you have done the *Paw Thing*, you muſt needs own what I have juſt now aſſerted to be true, and impute it not to Diſcretion or prudent Management that ye have eſcaped the publick Shame which befel *Vanella*; for ſome Women, like ſome Fields, are barren through Frigidity, but when that Cauſe is removed, by uſing proper Methods, they will ſoon grow prolific, and very probably produce Fruit *meet for Repentance*.

VANELLA was not the firſt, nor will ſhe be the laſt, young Creature that has given a Looſe to Love: Court Ladies, who have had a larger Share of Underſtanding, and more advanced in Years, which ſhould have taught them Wiſdom, have been ſeduced, and I need not go out of this Kingdom for Examples.

WE have an *Engliſh* Proverb which ſays, *There is no harm done when a good Child is got.* If this holds true, then the Memory of *Vanella* will ſmell as ſweet as a Violet. And let me aſſure you, that a Woman, born of noble

Pa-

Parentage, and debauched, even by a Perſon of Quality, if ſhe has Wealth at command, values not what malicious Tongues ſay of her.

CONSIDER, Ladies, that *Virtue* and *Chaſtity* are the brighteſt Jewels that can adorn a Woman; their Value is ineſtimable, their Loſs irretrievable: Conſider therefore, and conſider ſeriouſly, in what great Eſtimation you ought to have them. But if, after all the Advice and Admonition that has been given you, if ye prove deaf to ſage and good Counſel, if ye will turn Retrograde, and follow *Vanella*'s Example, yet buoy not your ſelves up with the vain Expectation of having as good Proviſion for ye, as ſhe has. Settlements are precarious Things, and it will be too late to inſiſt upon, or demand honourable Terms, when ye are in the Hands of the Enemy; you muſt rely then upon his Munificence, and be ſubject to his Will and Pleaſure when he has you in his Power. If therefore ye are determined to diſpoſe of your precious Jewels, beſure to oblige the Purchaſer to pay ready Money, or at leaſt to give ye good Security; if ye act otherwiſe,

therwiſe, then to your irretrievable Loſs, will be added Folly and Indiſcretion, ye will give the World juſt Cauſe to laugh at your Imprudence, and condemn your Simplicity.

I am,

With profound Reſpect,

LADIES,

Your moſt faithful Counſellor,

Your moſt humble and

Moſt obedient Servant,

The AUTHOR.

To the READER.

AS no Care or Pains have been ſpared in collecting Materials from the beſt and moſt approv'd Authors for furniſhing the following Account of Vanella's Life; and as I have not wilfully omitted any one Point or Circumſtance that is of any Moment to her Story, ſo likewiſe there is nothing here inſerted but what was found in the Records of Time. If the Hiſtories from whence I have taken theſe Collections are ſpurious or defective, the Charge ought to be laid at the Doors of their Authors; but there ſeems to be ſo much Veracity in them, that no one I believe will make a doubt of their being genuine.

BEAUTY *may very well be compar'd to Riches, neither of them is pernicious in itſelf, but the general Conſequence of both are Preſumption, Pride, Arrogancy, Concupiſence, wicked Pleaſures, and unſatiable Deſire of encreaſing that Portion which People have in Poſſeſſion. The Truth of this Aſſertion is confirm'd by daily Experience, and I may ſay, that Beauty in a Woman, if not accompanied with a more than ordinary Share of Virtue, for the moſt Part terminates in her Ruin; for though ſhe may indulge her Fancy with the Thoughts of captivating and ſecuring the Heart of the Man ſhe loves, yet it too frequently happens that Beauty renders a Woman miſerable and contemptible: For, as the* Poet *ſings,*

BEAUTY's a gaudy Sign, no more
To tempt the Gazer to the Door;
Within the Entertainment lies,
Far off remov'd from vulgar Eyes.

And

And when a Man has poſſeſſed her, he values her Beauty no more than as it conduces to encreaſe his Luſt, and give a double Reliſh to Fruition. This was the Caſe of Vanella, *who, if ſhe had preſerved her Chaſtity, might have enjoy'd all the Felicity that this World could afford; but ſhe who was an* Angel of Light *is now become an* Angel of Darkneſs, *and the Stain of her Reputation is indelible. Thus we ſee that Beauty is rather a Curſe than Bleſſing, and how mortifying muſt it be to a beautiful Woman, when ſhe finds herſelf forſaken, even though ſhe has Youth on her Side, and beholds her Lover raveling and wantoning in the Embraces of another, who is older, and not near ſo handſome as ſhe.*

THE *Reader will find many Tranſactions in this Hiſtory, which have been kept ſecret by Art and Induſtry; and though he muſt needs applaud the Generoſity of Prince* Alexis, *yet he cannot in Juſtice vindicate or countenance his Be-*

haviour to Vanella, *whoſe Fame is ſo much tarniſhed, that it can never be brought to its former Luſtre. Her Hiſtory contains many uncommon and ſurpriſing Adventures, but as ſhe abuſed the good Nature and Indulgence of her Royal Miſtreſs, her Fall and Diſgrace, has rendered her leſs pittyed.*

Having ſtript her of her Græcian *Habit, I here preſent her to you in an* Engliſh *Dreſs; not pompous and gaudy, nor yet abject; but in ſuch Apparel as may not create a Diſguſt in thoſe who are nice and curious, nor cloy and ſurfeit them who keep a juſt Medium between real Love and Luxurioufneſs: and I heartily wiſh that* Vanella's *Miſconduct may be a ſufficent Caution to other young Ladies not to fall into the ſame Snare.*

THE

THE

FAIR CONCUBINE.

THO' *History* and *Biography* may appear to be Twin-Sisters in the Eyes of some People, yet their Affinity, if there is any between them, is remov'd to a far greater Distance than they are aware on; for Historians treats of Things and Times in general, and seldom descends to Particulars; but Biographers are oblig'd to recite the most minute Transactions of the Persons whose Lives he writes, if it be of any Women, or may be conducive to illustrate the Work which he undertakes. I take it for granted, that *Vanella* will be miserably *maul'd* by the *Coquets* of this Age, and undergo the *Lash* of the *Prudes*, from whose Hands no *Quarters* can be expected, though (notwithstanding their formal Pretensions

tenſions to Sanctity and Devotion) they are guilty of the like Crime, and reiterate it, as often as they have an Opportunity of doing it.

THE World Expects an Account of every Perſon who is become notorious for good or bad Actions, and as the Generality of Mankind is for reading the *vicious* rather than the virtuous Part of a Woman's Life, I thought it may not be improper at this Time to gratify their Inclination by introducing *Vanella* upon the ſtage, and preſent her ro them in her natural Colours.

AGIS, King of *Lacedemonia*, was a magnanimous and virtuous Monarch; he married *Elóiſa*, the Daughter of a *Græcian* Prince, and their Nuptial Bed was grac'd with a numerous Iſſue. *Alexis*, his eldeſt Son, was educated in ſound Learning and moral Principles, and being Heir Apparent to his Father's Kingdom, had, when he arrived at the Years of Maturity, an Apartment allotted to him, and an Appendage ſufficient to ſupport the Grandeur and Dignity of his Birth.

QUEEN *Elóiſa* was a Lady of ſtrict Piety and Virtue, and took into her Train ſix young Ladies, among whom *Vanella* was one, and the Queen had a more than com-

mon

mon Regard and Compaſſion for her, on account of an unhappy Indiſpoſition which her Father, a *Græcian* Lord, labour'd under. She was young and beautiful, had a competant Share of Wit and good Senſe, but took too much Freedom in her Converſation, which becoming habitual, proved to be the Deſtruction of her Character and Reputation. Her Levity was conſpicious to every one, and it had taken ſuch deep Root, that neither Example nor Precept could eradicate it; therefore to prevent, if poſſible, the fatal Conſequence which was apprehended might enſue, it was judged proper to provide a Husband for her, and a Match was propoſed between her and *Leonides*, who was a *Lacedemonian* Lord, and had been a Commander in the Army. But it fortunately happen'd for him, that before the Treaty of Marriage was concluded, he was ſent Ambaſſador by his Royal Maſter to adjuſt the Difference that aroſe between two Neighbouring Potentates; and there we ſhall leave him and return to *Vanella*.

SOME Hiſtorians, whom I have conſulted for the more regular Formation of this Hiſtory, ſeem to queſtion the Veracity of what their Predeceſſors have alleged in Vindication of every particular Expreſſion and Paſſage contain'd in the following Paragraphs, but allow the whole in general to be

be genuine; I have therefore chose to insert them, since they do not carry a Face of Impartiality, and leave to the Reader to form Judgment of them as he shall think proper.

THIS young Lady had a Multitude of Admirers, and among the rest who made their Addresses to her, *Albimarides*, a young Nobleman belonging to King *Agis*, had the first Place in her Affection. His Levity was upon a Level with hers, which principally recommended him to her good Graces; she esteem'd herself to be the happiest Person upon Earth while she was in his Company, and thought he could not be too frequent in the Repitition of his Visits, tho' he was at the same time paving a Way for her Ruin. Love was the Topick by which he insinuated himself into her Favour, but alas! *honourable Love* was a Stranger to his Heart; for he used it as a Cloak to cover his libidinous Designs. They grew so very familiar, that she indulg'd him in all the Liberties he was pleased to take, one only excepted, and it is possible she would not have denied him *That*, had he *pushed hard* for it; but in a small space of Time he accomplished it with much Facility.

COMING one Evening to her Apartment, he surprised her as she sat musing in her

her Bed-Chamber, but when the Fit was over, they renewed their Cuſtom of toying together; and leaning his Head on her Boſome, ſhe puting one Hand about his Neck, and ſtroking his Face with the other, he took a Paper out of his Pocket, on which the following Lines were written, which he ſung to her.

WHAT is Beauty, *but a Gin*
To enſnare and trap Folks in?
Cupid's *Net to catch a Heart,*
Natures Picture without Art;
With the Lilly *joins the* Roſe,
Stronger Charms their Union ſhews;
Now they bloom, and now are gay
Like the wanton Month of May:
But when Age begin t'appear,
And the Autumn does draw near,
Beauty *ſickens at the Sight,*
Then ſhe dreads approaching Night;
Wan and languid are her Eyes,
Weak her Power did ſurpriſe,
All her boaſted Charms decay,
Roſe *and* Lilly *fade away.*

ALBIMARIDES ſung the Words with ſo much Humour that *Vanella* reſolved to have them though ſhe paid ever ſo dear for the Purchaſe; and he perceiving that her Reſolution was unalterable, determined to have a valuable Conſideration for them.

To this End he artfully kept her in ſuſpence for ſome time, now ſeeming to gratify her Deſire, and then again to put her off with feigned Excuſes, all which tended only to make her more eager to obtain them. *Hark, you, my Lord*, ſays ſhe, patting him on the Face, and alluring him with her Bluſhes, *give me the Song, and we will take the Pleaſure of looking Babies in one another's Eyes. Faith, Madam*, anſwered *Albimarides* with a ſmiling Countenance, *there is a great deal more Pleaſure to be found in getting of Babies. It may be ſo truly*, reply'd *Vanella* very demurely, *but let us leave this idle Talk, and give me the Song, for I will have it do what you can.* Thereupon ſhe ſnatched the Paper out of his Hand, and put it into her Boſom. *Nay*, ſays *Albimarides, if you will take it by Force, you ſhall take ſomething elſe in the like Manner.* He then took her in his Arms, and having almoſt ſmothered her with Kiſſes, laid her upon the Bed, and ſhe finding him preparing the Way *for* Enjoyment, ſaid, *O Lud! O Lud! What are you doing?* My Maid's in the next Room, and will hear us; O fy, fy, my Lord, pray now forbear, you will ruin me,——Oh! Oh! I ſhall be undone for ever,——I ſwear I will cry out,—— Oh! Oh! ——Whether the Extaſy was ſo great ſhe could not cry out, or whether he prevented her, by reiterated Kiſſes, I will not take upon me to determine, it is certain that

that ſhe ſoon grew as tame, and lay as quiet as a Wife.

HISTORY informs us that his Lordſhip *crack'd the Shell*, but makes no mention of his having *found* the *Kernel*, ſo that we are left in the dark in Relation to that particular Point; we are likewiſe left to ourſelves to gueſs how often he rallied and repeated the *Onſet* before he retreated out of the Field.

VANELLA perceiving the Hour to draw nigh when ſhe muſt appear at Court, was oblig'd to change her Headcloaths, which was very much rumpled by *Albimarides*; and when he appeared among the Ladies, any body who had been ſo curious, might have perceived that the young Lord and ſhe had been doing what was not juſtifiable, for her guilty Conſcience flew in her Face when he came near her, and diſcovered it ſelf with frequent Bluſhes. However, ſhe got the upperhand of it at laſt, and carried herſelf in the beſt Manner ſhe was capable of doing; and though ſhe trembled at the Thoughts of his ſpeaking to her, yet ſhe greatly deſired it; but ſhe was very much vex'd when ſhe ſaw him converſe and take a more than ordinary Liberty (as ſhe imagined) with the other young Ladies. Not able to curb her Jealouſy, ſhe approach'd

and made one among them, then with a kind of haughty and diſdainful Air, ſaid, *Ladies take care how you converſe with the Lord* Albimarides, *he has a ſoft, bewitching Tongue ſufficient to delude a* Veſtal *Virgin. You ſpeak very* feelingly, *Madam*, ſays one of the Ladies, whoſe Name was *Medoſaria, and we hope he has not* deluded *you; but we thank you for your good Advice, and in my Opinion no-body is ſo capable of ſhewing where the dangerous Rock lies, as the Perſon who has been* Shipwreck'd *upon it. Truly*, replied *Vanella*, with all the Arrogance imaginable, *I did not direct my Diſcourſe to you*, Medoſaria; *but ſince you have taken a Freedom that does not become you, I muſt tell you plainly, that no Man will venture a Shipwreck with you, or even to go on board your Veſſel, which ſails ſo very aukwardly, and is ſo wretchedly built, that ſhe will not anſwer the Helm.*

HOW far they would have carried their Reſentment, had they not been interrupted by the Queen *Eloiſa*, who was going to take the Air, and on whom they were obliged to attend, no body can tell; however their Diſcourſe having been buz'd about the Court, ſoon reached the Queen's Ear, who reprimanded the two Antagoniſts in a very kind and maternal Manner; and as ſhe was all Goodneſs in her ſelf, ſhe took all the

Care

Care imaginable to breed up the young Ladies in virtuous Principles, and to prevent any Jealouſy that might ariſe among them on Account of who had the greateſt Share in her Favour, for ſhe treated each of them alike. This is an Example, which, as it is wanted in moſt Families, 'tis hoped will be followed by every one.

WHETHER the Queen ſuſpected that *Vanella* had play'd a *Slippery Trick*, or that her Beauty might entice ſome of the Courtiers to make unlawful Addreſſes to her, and be the Occaſion of her Ruin, is hard to determine; but certain it is that ſhe ſent for *Vanella* privately, and among many other Queſtions which ſhe put to her, demanded to know if the Lord *Albimarides* had a mind to ſeduce her to a Violation of her Chaſtity? *Vanella* was ſo ſurpriſed at this unexpected Queſtion, that ſhe could not readily give an Anſwer; but as ſoon as ſhe recovered herſelf from the Confuſion ſhe was in, ſhe ſaid, *Madame*, as your Majeſty has done me the Honour to admit me into your Family, and have uſed me with the Tenderneſs and Affection of a *Mother*, *my Duty obliges me to give you all the Satisfaction that I am capable of in this particular; I beg leave therefore to declare to your Majeſty, that the young Lord* Albimarides *never offer'd any thing that was rude or diſhonourable.*

The

The Queen, not doubting the Veracity of what ſhe ſaid, ſeem'd to be well ſatisfied, and told her by the by, that ſhe could not with Honour retract from the Match with *Leonides*, which was in effect as good as concluded. To this *Vanella* anſwered, *Madam, I have a great Value and Reſpect for* Leonides, *but as I always ſhewed an Averſion to that Match, except only a ſeeming Compliance, which filial Duty extorted from me, I hope I ſhall be held excuſable if I refuſe to make us both miſerable, which would be the certain Conſequence of ſuch a Marriage; in my humble Opinion there is too great a Diſparity in our Ages, which is the only Objection I raiſe, believing that Lord* Leonides *would be a very good Husband, and make any other Woman happy.*

THE Queen did not urge this Affair any farther, but diſmiſs'd *Vanella*, having caution'd her in the moſt friendly Manner, not to make a falſe Step, or do any Thing that might bring a Blemiſh on her Reputation.

AS ſoon as *Vanella* came to her Apartment, ſhe ſent for *Albimarides*, to whom ſhe related all that had paſs'd between the Queen and her, and told him ſhe did not queſtion but her Majeſty would talk to him about it, and therefore thought proper to forewarn him, that he might be prepar'd with

with an Anſwer, if the Queen ſhould ask him any Queſtion. *Albimarides* approv'd her Conduct; and taking her in his Arms, repeated Kiſſes prevented her from uttering one Word; then uſing a Familiarity not proper to be related, ſhe diſengaging her Lips from his, ſaid, *What, my Lord, will you not give over 'till you have ruined me for ever? but I fear you have already done it, and how can I reſiſt the Man who has diſarm'd my Heart?* The Reader may gueſs the Conſequence; for as the Poet very pathetically expreſſes it,

What followed next was paſt the Power of Verſe,
Beyond the reach of Fancy to rehearſe.

WOMEN have naturally a Tenderneſs and Affection for the Perſon who ſpoils them of their Virginity, and there is nothing more common than when they have gratified the Inclinations of the Man they love, to permit him to reiterate them as frequently as he deſires, eſpecially if he has exerciſed himſelf ſtrenuouſly. This we ſee verified in *Vanilla*, who was no leſs than a Slave to the Libidinous Deſires of *Albimarides*.

IN a little time this young Lady's Countenance began to grow pale and wan; and her

her fainting Fits at Court, which appear'd the more viſible, as ſhe took the greater Paiſs to conceal them, together with ſeveral other Symtoms, occaſion'd it to be whiſper'd about that ſhe was Pregnant. This News was ſweeter than *Nectar* and *Ambroſia* to the two young Ladies, *Medoſaria* and *Mordantia*, who were her Rival Companions, and envied her on account of her Beauty, feared that one Day or other ſhe might engroſs the Favours of *Alexis*, as ſhe had already ſecur'd thoſe of *Alhimarides*: And truly it muſt be confeſs'd that *Vanella*'s bright Charms would have melted the frozen Heart of an Hermit, and obliged him to ſacrifice at her *Shrine*, nay to have offered a whole *Hecatomb* at her *Alter*, had he been ſo well provided.

VANELLA feeing ſhe was nearer the Time of her Delivery than ſhe imagined, kept her Bed one Day to conſider what Method ſhe ſhould take to conceal her big Belly; and as ſhe had confin'd her ſelf to her Apartment, it gave Birth to various Speculations. Queen *Eloiſa* having been informed that the young Lady was very much indiſpoſed, ordered her own Phyſicians to attend her, and make their Report next Day, which they failed not to do, and gave it as their Opinions that the Country Air would very much conduce to the Recovery of her Health

Health; and thereupon she sent one of her Ladies to charge *Vanella* in her Name not to get out of Bed 'till her Majesty came, which would be in the Evening.

THIS you must needs think was a great Surprise to *Vanella*; but it is impossible to comprehend the Confusion she was in, when she saw Queen *Eloisa* approached her Bed-Side, who commanded her to relate the Cause of her Grief without any Disguise or Subtlety. *Madam*, said the trembling *Fair One*, if I had taken Warning by the *Moth* which plays about the Candle till it has burn'd its Wings, I should not have been in this Condition; but I have play'd the Fool with a certain Lord too long, and now he slights and contemns me, and does all that lies in his Power to make me become the Jest of *Medosaria* and *Mordantia*. I heartily wish, answered the good and sage Queen, that you have not been *playing something* else with him; I am loth to give Credit to what is confidently reported; but if you have been so imprudent as to make a false Step, I advise you to repent of your Error. In the mean Time I lay an Injunction upon you not to receive a Visit from him, or converse with him, either personaly, by Message, Writing, or otherwise, without my Approbation. She then was graciously pleased to give her the best Counsel, with Di-

rections for her future Behaviour; adding, that the Phiſicians judg'd it proper that ſhe ſhould go into the Country, and if ſhe thought ſhe could bear the Fatigue of a Journey, the ſooner ſhe began it, the greater Benefit ſhe would receive by it.

AS ſoon as *Vanella* could equip herſelf with ſuch Neceſſaries as ſhe might want, ſhe aroſe very early one Morning, and walking about a Mile from the Palace of *Lacedæmonia*, found a Chariot waiting for her, and ſeveral Servants well mounted and arm'd, who eſcorted her to a Sea-port Town about 30 Leagues diſtance from thence.

HERE ſhe led a kind of recluſe Life, ſeldom going abroad but for the Benefit of the Air; but complaining one Evening of a violent Pain in her Back, ſhe had the good Fortune to have it *in her Arms* before the Morning.

AS ſoon as ſhe recovered her Strength and Complection, ſhe went to a City about ten Miles from the Place where ſhe had *laid in*; but what became of the Babe, or whether it was Male or Female I cannot take upon me to aſcertain, Hiſtory being deficient therein. Here was a vaſt Concourſe of Nobility and Gentry, and *Vanella* appeared every Day in Publick, and reſorted

to

to all their Plays, Sports, and Paſtimes, on purpoſe to be taken notice of, for ſhe hop'd thereby to obviate the Malice of her Enemies. Perceiving moſt of the Company to withdraw from thence, this young Lady likewiſe ſet out for *Lacedemonia*, and, upon her Arrival at Court, met with a generous Reception; even her two inveterate Rivals *Medoſaria* and *Mordantia*, with unparallel'd Hypocracy, congratulated her upon her Return, and the Recovery of her Health. But their Cob-web Net was too thin not to be diſcover'd, and too weak to hold *Vanella*; however, aſſuming a careleſs Air, ſhe thanked them for their Civility, then turning ſhort, and looking upon them with Diſdain, ſhe joined in Company with the Court Ladies.

SHE now ſhines with double Luſtre to what ſhe had done before, and was more beautiful (if poſſible) than the celebrated *Helen*. She was inform'd one Day that Prince *Alexis* deſign'd to make her his Miſtreſs; this pleaſed her exceedingly, and ſhe determined not to be too eaſy in giving her Conſent, leſt it might pall his Inclination, and give him Occaſion to have the leſs Value and Reſpect for her: nor yet dally with him too long for fear he might forſake her, and take to another, but obſerve a due Decorum and Medium between the two Extreams.

KING *Agis* went to *Ruſticate*, at a ſmall Seat which he had purchaſed, delightfully ſituated on a large and pleaſant River. He took his Queen and Family with him, with neceſſary Attendants; and riding abroad one Day to take the Diverſion of killing ſome Game in one of his Parks, and being very intent upon the Purſuit of his Sport, Prince *Alexis* ſoon prevail'd with *Vanella* to retire with him to a Covert; here he diſmounted, and faſtening his Horſe to a Tree, as he had alſo done the young Lady's, he took her from her Saddle, and led her to a Bank of Dazies, in the Midſt of a pleaſant Grove, where they ſat ſecure from the ſcorching Beams of the Sun.

HERE they ſpent ſeveral Hours to their mutual Satisfaction, in kiſſing, toying, and Love Embraces; inſomuch, that the Evening was pretty far ſpent, before they were aware of it. This filled them with ſome perplexing Thoughts, but making a Virtue of Neceſſity, the Prince plac'd *Vanella* on her Horſe, and mounting his own, they rode directly to the Park-gate, which, to their great Surpiſe, was lock'd, and no body attended to open it. The Prince calling to Mind that there was a Houſe at a ſmall Diſtance, which had a Paſſage into the Road, galloped thither with his Miſtreſs, and both alighting

aligiating, they knock'd at the Door. No body was at home but a Servant, who looking out of the Window, and ſeeing Prince *Alexis*, and a Gentlewoman with him, haſtened to let them in. He put up their Horſes, and ask'd if they would pleaſe to drink a Glaſs of Wine, for he could furniſh them with as good as any in *Greece*. To this they conſented, and went up Stairs into a Room, where they continued till the Evening grew dusky; then, according to what had been agreed on between them, *Vanella* took a By-Road which led her to the Seat of King *Agis*; and then the Prince ask'd the Servant if he knew who he was? the Fellow anſwered, *It is not my Buſineſs, Sir, to know any Gentleman, who is not willing to be known.* *Alexis* was very well pleaſed with this Anſwer, and rewarding the Fellow went to his own Country-houſe, and ſoon after he came home, proper Servants were ſent for the Horſes.

WHEN *Vanella* came to her Apartment, ſhe made what haſte ſhe could to dreſs her ſelf in order to appear before her Royal Miſtreſs; but *Medoſaria* and *Mordantia* being ſworn Enemies to this young Lady, and having vowed to work her Overthrow (tho' all their Schems were of no other Effect than to promote the Intereſt of *Vanella*) went privately, under a Pretence of a Viſit, hoping

hoping, however, not to find her within, and then would have had a plauſible Reaſon to ſay that ſhe had been with the Prince, for they were miſſed much about the ſame Time. They alſo diſpatch'd a Meſſenger to the Houſe of *Alexis*, but were miſerably baulked in their Expectations: For they found *Vanella* ſitting on a Couch, with a Book in her Hand, and Word was brought them that the Prince was at Dinner. They were extreamly vex'd at theſe Diſappointments, for though they had ſubſtantial Ground for Suſpicion, they could not by all their Stratagems make a Diſcovery; yet *Mordantia*, filled with Rage and Envy, very pertly ſaid, *Madam, What is become of the Prince? Vanella* replied, *When I am made Keeper of the Prince, I ſhall then be able to anſwer ſuch an Impertinent Queſtion; but I ſuppoſe, Madam, you are very well ſatisfied that Prince* Alexis *is now at Dinner.* This was a Mortification to *Mordantia*, who concluded that *Vanella* had overheard what the Meſſenger had told her; and reſolving, if poſſible, to irritate her to the higheſt Degree, ſaid, *Allow that you are not the Prince's Keeper, but I ſuppoſe you would willingly be kept by him. If that ſhould ever come to paſs,* replied *Vanella, I do aſſure you I ſhall not be jealous of YOU; for I believe Prince* Alexis *has a better Taſte than to change a* Peach *for a* Quince. *Truly,* Mordantia, *all your Artifices*

fices will not avail you; I can ſee through them, and muſt tell you, that you were not cut out for a Petticoat Ploter.

MORDANTIA, imagining that *Vanella's* Words glanc'd ſtrong at her, though they ſeem'd to be pointed at *Medoſaria*, aroſe from her Chair, and with Indignation in her Countenance, ſaid, *I think it is very proper that we take leave of the Lady, otherwiſe ſhe may grow Angry, and then how will ſhe be able to entertain the* Prince, *from whom I ſuppoſe ſhe expects a Viſit after Dinner?* To this *Vanella* anſwered, *If Prince* Alexis *will do me ſomuch Honour, my* Duty *obliges me, even though Inclination were wanting, to give him* the civileſt Reception; *but*, Ladies, *as ſuch a Sight would put you into the moſt bitter Agonies, I adviſe you to retire in Time.* Envy *is a corroding Cancer in the Mind, and furrows many a handſome Face even before the Autumn of Life draws near; not that I think it can do any prejudice to* you, *Mordantia, you may ſtill proceed in following the Example of the* Viper *in the Fable, and gnaw the File till you break every Tooth in your Head. But that ye both may have ſomething to Employ your Thoughts for a while, I deſire you to remember, that* Venus *carried off the golden* Prize, *and that* Paris, *who gave it her as a Reward which her Beauty juſtly claimed, was the* Son *of a* King: *But miſtake me not, for there*

there is no Room to infer from hence, that I think either of ye a Juno, *or a* Pallas, *though you may call the former your* Patroneſs, *who, if* Fame *may be credited, founded the School wherein poor Mortals learn* Billingſgate Rhetorick.

THE Seaſon of the Year advancing which invited the Nobility and Gentry to breath the Country Air, King *Agis* removed with all his Court to one of his Palaces, ſituated at ſome Diſtance from *Lacedemonia*. Prince *Alexis*, having a ſtrong Deſire to make an Experiment of *Vanella*'s Sincerity, thought that the beſt Method he could take, was to give her Cauſe to be jealous; to effect this he talk'd very freely with *Medoſaria* and *Mordantia*, and to the latter, when in Company one Evening with *Vanella*, he made a Preſent of a *Gold Box*, inlaid with the richeſt Jewels: Nay, Hiſtory tell us, that he proceeded to a farther Length, he attempted a Peaſant's Wife to his Embraces, who being obſtinate in her Refuſal, and he earneſtly inſiſting on a Compliance, ſhe at laſt called out, and alarm'd her Husband, who came immediately to her Relief. They either did not, or would not know who he was; and therefore handled him in a very rough Manner, which ſoon reach'd the Ears of *Vanella*. She now became extreamly jealous

jealous, and not able to retain her Mind any longer, wrote him a Letter to the following purpose.

My dear Prince,

" KINDLY receive this Letter, which " comes from her whose Soul you " have set on Fire, and who wishes to " live no longer than she proves constant " to you. Happy, thrice happy I was " when in my Arms you panting lay, and " spoke a thousand pretty Things to me. " Our mutual Love produc'd mutual Joys, " nor did we think ourselves lavish therein. " But now Millions of Furies invade my " Breast, ten thousand anxious Doubts " disturb my Mind, and Night and Day I " can find no Peace. *Rage* and *Jealousy* " domineer and play the Tyrant over me " by Turns; methinks I am the Laughing-" stock of the Court, and when I approach " my *Royal Mistress*, my Heart conscious of " it's Guilt is struck with a panick Fear, " and when I retire, burning with an eter-" nal Flame, I find my Apartment, which " was my Paradise when you were there, is " now become a Hell. O *Alexis*, the Tortures " of a Rack are nothing in Comparison to " what I feel; yet these, and more than " these, I suffer for your Sake. Tell me, " dear Prince, what have I done; what

" Cauſe have I given you to forſake me? " can *Medoſaria* vie with me for Nobility " of Birth, or *Mordantia* ſtand in Competi- " tion with *Vanella* for Beauty? why then " am I ſlighted and they carreſs'd? how " often have you told me that I had a Mul- " titude of Charms, and that the *Graces* " were proud of their Attendance on me? " Is it then poſſible that you can con- " deſcend to ſolicite a *Plebean* Matron, " the Wife of a poor Peaſant, to grant you a " *Favour*, which *Venus*, if ſhe were on Earth, " would be proud to grant you? I have a " thouſand Things to ſay, but my Spirits " fleet ſo faſt, that my trembling Hand can " only let you know, except I ſee you " quickly, the next News you hear will be " the untimely Death of the forſaken and " diſtracted,

VANELLA.

THE Prince was ſenſibly affected with this Letter, which gave him great Uneaſineſs, and being now convinc'd of *Vanella*'s Sincerity, wiſhed that he had not put it to the Teſt; but to comfort the young Lady in her Affliction, he ſent word by the Perſon who brought the Letter, that he would not fail of complying with what ſhe ſeem'd to deſire.

IN

IN the Evening Prince *Alexis* viſited *Vanella*, who, as ſoon as ſhe ſaw him, aroſe from her Couch, but her Joy was ſo great that ſhe fainted, and had certainly fallen on the Ground, if the Prince had not ſaved her by catching her in his Arms, tho' ſhe ſoon recovered her Senſes, yet it was ſometime before ſhe could ſpeak to him; he perceiv'd that ſhe endeavoured to do it, but her Words could find no Utterance. The Prince ſeeing the Condition ſhe was in, careſs'd her moſt affectionately, and us'd the tendereſt Expreſſions imaginable; in the mean while her Eyes were fix'd upon him; ſhe often ſighed and groaned, graſped his Hand faſt, and at laſt, ſtrugling hard to declare her Mind, recovered her Speech, and ſpoke to him after the following Manner.

O my Prince, I know not which is greateſt, the Torments which you created and I ſuffered, or the Joy I now receive from your Arms. Believe me, my Alexis, *I was upon the Verge of* Deſpair, *and ſhould have caſt my ſelf into the* Bottomleſs Gulph, *had you not prevented me by your verbal Anſwer to my Letter; and now your Preſence enlivens my Hopes, and bids me live. Methinks that I am juſt awaken'd from a moſt hedious and frightful Dream, and I am reſolutely determined that* Nothing, *but the like Occaſion, ſhall diſturb my future Peace and Tranquility.* To this

the Prince replied. *I do assure you*, Vanella, *I will never give you a second Cause to complain, and what I have done was only to try whether you were* Sincere *in your Love and Friendship for my Person, of which I am now fully convinc'd. You must needs own*, replied *Vanella, that it was a very severe Tryal; but, my dear Prince, your kind Promise, and the Assurance you give me that you'r satisfied with my* Sincerity, *have doubly recompenced all my Sufferings.*

PRINCE *Alexis*, to divert *Vallenv*, shifted this melancholly Scene, and making Love the Subject of their Discourse, they spent several Hours in the most *agreeable* Manner, and to the great Joy and Satisfaction of each other. During the Residence of King *Agis* in the Country, they carried on their Intrigues as plausibly as the Nature of the Affair would admit; nor did they desist upon the Return of the Court to *Ladedemonia.*

IN a few Weeks *Vanella* became pregnant, which, as it encreased every Day, she could not conceal from the prying Eyes of *Mordantia* and *Medosaria*, and as she was passing by these two youg Ladies, when they were talking rogether, the former said to her, *I think*, Vanella, *you grow* fat *and* lean *like the Rabits, but with this Difference, that their*

Change

Change happens in one Month, and yours in nine. *Vanella*, without Heſitation, made Anſwer, *If I do*, Mordantia, *you muſt acknowledge that I keep my* Fat *much longer than you did the* Gold-Box; *and let me tell you, there is one you know, that would number herſelf among the happieſt Perſons on Earth, if her Condition could ſuffer a* Change; *ſhe has try'd to effect it, but the Labour was loſt on both Sides, for there are ſome Creatures in the World who are naturally Barren. For my Part, I freely own, that if Prince* Alexis *had made me a Preſent of a Ring, a* Box, *or a Watch, neither Threats or Promiſes ſhould have prevailed on me to affront him ſo groſsly as to return it after I had kept it a While.*

HEREUPON *Vanella* withdrew, and ſending for one who was her Confident, they conſulted on what Method they ſhould take, and at laſt concluded to retire to a Country Village named *Egaira*, about five Leagues from *Lacedemon*: Soon after her Departure ſhe wrote a Letter to Queen *Elóiſa*, in the *Laconic* Style, and to this Purpoſe;

Moſt Gracious Madam,

" I BEG leave to inform you, that I am
" with Child by Prince *Alexis*; for
" which Reaſon I have retired from Court,
" and think it not proper to return till I
have

" have *Laid in*, or ſome Proviſion be " made for me ; which is certainly very " requiſite."

THE Queen was greatly ſurpriſed when ſhe read the Letter, and ſending for the Prince, ſhewed it to him, and asking whether the Contents were true, the Prince bowing with profound Reverence and Reſpect, anſwered in the Affirmative; the good Queen chequed him for being guilty of ſuch a Crime, but a Reconciliation was ſoon brought about.

VANELLA, ſending for her Uncle, revealed every Thing to him, who undertook to pacify the Lord her Father, and re-eſtabliſh her in his Favour ; and when he had effected this, he hired a Houſe for her ready furniſhed in the *Baſilican Square*, to which ſhe returned, and ſhe had as much Attendance as any Perſon of her Rank and Quality could deſire.

AS ſoon as it was rumoured that *Vanella* had taken a Houſe, ſeveral of the Court-Ladies, and others of the greateſt Diſtinction, came to viſit her; ſome out of Curioſity, and others who had a Friendſhip and Value for her, to condole with her in the *unhappy* State ſhe was in. But ſhe, not daunted at what they ſaid, with a magnanimous

nimous Heart told them, ſhe look'd upon her ſelf to be in the *happieſt* Condition of any Woman upon Earth, which ſhe would not change with any Subject in *Lacedemonia*; for ſhe had a large Share of the Prince's Favour, and eſteem'd it more Honour to be with Child by him, than to be made a Dutcheſs. *Alexis* came frequently to her Houſe *incognito*, and being now under no Apprehenſion of an Interruption, they enjoyed each others Company with double Pleaſure. When *Vanella* perceived that the Prince was delighted with her big Belly, ſhe ſmilling ſaid, I hope, that in a ſhort Time I ſhall be able to ſend you the joyful News of the Birth of a Duke; to which the Prince anſwered, Such News, *Vanella*, will be acceptable to me even at Midnight, and eſpecially if it be accompanied with an Information of your being in as good Health, as can be expected from a Perſon under the like Circumſtances with yourſelf. *Vanella* thanked him for his kind and tender Expreſſions, and ſaid, She would do herſelf the Honour to take Care he ſhould be punctually obey'd in every thing; adding, that ſhe requeſted him, in Caſe ſhe ſhould die in Child-Bed, to make a handſome Proviſion for the Infant, whether Male or Female, which he promiſed ſhould be certainly performed.

THE

THE *Græcian* Hiſtorians do further obſerve, that ſo great was the Goodneſs, and ſo very wonderful the Condeſcenſion of Queen *Eloiſa*, that ſhe permitted herſelf to be prevail'd upon to let *Vanella* attend her in private one Day after her Departure from Court, *Vanella* having a ſtrong Deſire to pay her Duty and Reſpect to her Majeſty, and to ſubmit herſelf entirely to her.

BUT now I ſhall conſider the Hiſtorian's Account of a Settlement ſaid to be made by Prince *Alexis* for this *Fair Concubine*, and that is as follows, *viz.* Forty thouſand Crowns to purchaſe Plate, and furniſh a Houſe for her; Eight thouſand Crowns *per Annum* during her Life; and four thouſand Crowns more *per Annum* during the Pleaſure of the Prince.

AT the Time of this Hiſtory being ſent to the Preſs, *Vanella* had about two Months to go, as ſhe *reckon'd* herſelf; that is, ſhe expected to be brought to Bed in the fifth Month in the Year.

THE Houſe which was taken for *Vanella* not being ſo convenient as was expected, her Siſter-in-Law, being reconciled to her, hired another, which thay went about to furniſh with all Expedition; Plate was

was brought, many Hands were employ'd in making *Child-bed Linnen*, a Nurſe was provided, and ſhe wanted nothing that was requiſite for a young Lady in her Condition.

THE Vacancy, occaſion'd by *Vanella*'s withdrawing from the Court of *Lacedemonia*, was ſoon fill'd up, and ſo great was *Mordantia*'s Intereſt, that ſhe was put in Poſſeſſion of the Apartment which her Rival had poſſeſſed; tho' this was ſome Comfort to her, yet ſhe had the Mortification to find, that by all her Plots and Contrivances, ſhe could not eject *Vanella* out of Prince *Alexis*'s Favour, and *Worm* herſelf into it. However, ſhe would not Deſpair, for ſhe believed that if *Vanella* ſhould die in Child-bed, ſhe might rivet herſelf in the Prince's good Graces: and if ſhe recover'd, then ſhe hoped in due Time to make him Jealous, and by abandoning the beautiful *Vanella*, ſhe might ſupply her Place.

JEALOUSY is without Doubt a Sort of Plenty in the Mind, and hurries thoſe whom it has ſeized to unwarrantable Lengths; the Methods they purſue to ruin their Rivals, generally end in their own Deſtruction, and as it has the greateſt Power over the Minds of Women, ſo its Strength is manifeſted to be the ſtrongeſt, when the contending Parties are of a ſuperior Rank and

Station, and the Object of their Desire moves, in a Sphere much lighter than their own. They adore and gaze upon the *rising Sun*, till its Lustre first dazzles, and afterwards deprives them of their Sight; The *Eagle* alone can, with Safety, behold its radiant Beams; *Vanella* was that *Eagle*, she could tower aloft, bask in its Bays with Safety, and wanton in its Meridian Glory. But, alas! her ploting Rivals were oblig'd to pore upon their Mother Earth, and receive such Comfort from her at Second Hand, as the *enlivening Sun* was pleased to communicate to them.

The Lady's laſt Shift; *or a* Cure for Shame.

A TALE.

VENUS of *Love* and *Beauty* Queen,
Inſpire my Verſe, direct my Pen,
That it may fair *Vanella* ſhew,
Lovely as thee, and Wanton too;
In Pride of Youth, and Beauty gay,
As *July* ripe, as ſweet as *May*.

Fortune favouring ſtill the Fair,
Took young *Vanella* to her Care,
Plac'd *her* amidſt the Joys of State,
Where Pomp and Pleaſure on *her* wait,
And Threw — to make *her* Bliſs compleat,
Even great *Alexis* at *her Feet*.

Who doth not gay *Alexis* know,
By Birth a Lord, by Dreſs a Beau,
So form'd to give Love's fierce Alarms,
That all to him reſign their Charms.

Proud if their Beauty can ſubdue,
Him whom the Nymphs with *Envy* view;
Towards whom each am'rous *Fair-one* turns,
For whom the Courtly Circle burns.
And full as much Complaiſance *ſhew.*
As if in a *Seraglio.*

But bright *Vanella*, lucky Maid,
To love *Alexis*'s Heart betray'd,
For *her* ſet out with Care to view,
His powder'd Front, and *ſtiffen'd Cue.*
The Youth the Darling of the *Fair*,
Deſpiſing them, had fix'd on *her*,
His Eyes where-e'er *her* Charms they met,
With a peculiar *Stare* were ſet,
With languid Looks on *her* they roll,
And ſpeak the Paſſion of his Soul;
Each Word, each Act, his Love proclaim,
And Sighs half breath'd fan the ſoft Flame.
At laſt——For Silence had been vain,
He told the *Fair one* all his Pain;
How much his Heart was in her Power,
And what from Scorn he ſhould endure.
But the *bright Nymph* had ne'er deſign'd,
To be to ſuch a Youth unkind;
Charm'd with his Title, Pomp and Shew,
Charm'd with the Lord, and with the Beau;
She to *Alexis*'s Paſſion gave,
All that his warmeſt Wiſh could crave.

The

The *beauteous Creature* thus enjoy'd,
Grew ſome ſpiteful Folks, ſay cloy'd.

But *ill-luck* did at laſt prevail,
Here comes the *Burthen* of my *Tale*;
Vanella now began to ſwell,
And Love by its Effects tell
At *her* Wits end to him ſhe flies,
There Raves, and Sighs, and Stamps, and Cries;
While poor *Alexis* knew not how,
T'appeaſe *her*, or what beſt to do.
At length the enamour'd *Pair* agreed,
From Town *ſhe* ſhould depart with ſpeed;
And lie *in cog* till *ſhe* had brought,
The ſmiling *Iſſue* of *her Fault*;
And then—quoth He--my Love again,
Shall ſhine the *brighteſt* of the Train,
My Power ſhall ſtill protect *thy Fame*,
And Greatneſs leave no Room for *Shame*.

Ye *Fair Ones* from *her Fate* be Wiſe,
Since now *detected* all Deſpize,
That Beauty which before did prove,
The *Butt* of Envy and of Love,
Yet if her Name ye would obtain,
Your Search give o'er —— ſince it is *Vain*.

F I N I S.